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Portland Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
YEAR 1957



E. J. Gordon Wallace M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T

on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the

PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1957

Council Offices,
PORTLAND,
Dorset.

September, 1958

To the Chairman and Members of the
Portland Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

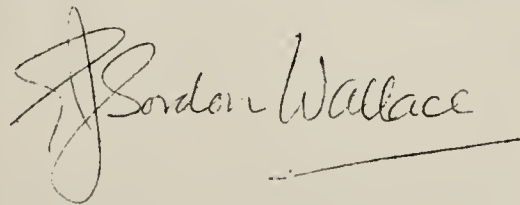
I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my Report for the year 1957 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District.

So far as infectious diseases were concerned it was a very quiet year. There have been only 43 notifications of whooping cough and six of measles. Seven cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified.

The standardised Birth Rate (16.92) per 1000 population was again lower than that of the previous year (18.16), while the standardised Death Rate (11.53) was higher than the rate for the previous year (9.95). Live births exceeded the number of deaths by 37.

Once more it is a pleasure to place on record my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration which has invariably been extended to me throughout the year. I am also most grateful to my fellow officials and to the Council staff generally for their helpful co-operation. In particular Mr. Williams, your Public Health Inspector and Miss M. Otter, part-time clerical assistant, have done much to promote the efficiency of the Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department Staff

1. Medical Officer of Health:

E. J. Gordon Wallace, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

2. Public Health Inspector:

Mr. P. A. Williams, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

3. Clerk (part-time)

Miss M. Otter.

4. Sanitary Labourer/Rodent Operator:

Mr. T. Llewellyn.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (land and internal water)...	...	...	2,905
Population (mid 1957) (Estimated by Registrar General)	...	...	13,820
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1958	...	...	£108,007
Sum represented by Penny at 1st April, 1958	...	...	£434
No. of houses inhabited at 1st April, 1958 (exclusive of Government properties)	...	...	2,480
Shops assessed with private dwelling accommodation	...	...	97
Licensed Premises, hotels or boarding houses			35
	Total		2,605

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS:

Total Births...	...	...	148
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	10.71
* Comparability Factor (births)	...	...	1.58
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population			16.92

Live Births: 144

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	72	66	138
Illegitimate	3	3	6
TOTAL	75	69	144
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population		...	10.71

Still Births: 4

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	4	-	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live & still) births 27.03

DEATHS: 107

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	58	59	107
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	... 7.74
Comparability Factor (Deaths)	...	...	... 1.49
Standardised Death Rate	...	...	... 11.53

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	1	-	1
TOTAL	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	1	-	1
TOTAL	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>

Infant Mortality Rate

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	... 20.83
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	... 13.88
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	... 6.94
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	...	...	... 20.83
Maternal Morality Rate...	...	...	... Nil

⌘ Comparability Factor. This is worked for each District by the Registrar General. Its object is to level out differences in age and sex constitution of the population of the various districts and its use enables us to obtain standardised birth and death rates which are fairly comparable and more accurate than the crude rates.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES - PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT - 1957

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	1	-	1

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
8.	Measles	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	2	1	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	7	17
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	6	12
18.	Coronary disease, angina	5	1	6
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	5
20.	Other heart disease	8	18	26
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	2	4
22.	Influenza	1	-	1
23.	Pneumonia	2	2	4
24.	Bronchitis	8	1	9
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	2	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	1	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2	4
33.	Motor vehicles accidents	1	-	1
34.	All other accidents	1	-	1
35.	Suicide	-	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	TOTAL	<u>58</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>107</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious Diseases notified during the year, shown as quarterly totals:-

	<u>March</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1957</u>
Scarlet Fever	4	2	2	-	8
Whooping Cough	2	26	15	-	43
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	-	1
Non-Paralytic do.	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	2	2	2	-	6
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Para-typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	1	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis Respiratory	3	2	1	1	7
Non-Respiratory	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-

FOOD POISONING

One case of Food Poisoning was notified during the year.

FOOD

(i) Meat.

(a) Meat Premises. There are no registered slaughter-houses in the District and all meat for human consumption had been inspected by Meat Inspectors of adjacent authorities before it was brought to the Island. Regular visits were made by your Public Health Inspector to Butchers' shops. The covered metal-lined van used for bringing meat to the Island has been inspected periodically and found to be maintained in good condition.

One man was registered as a slaughterman, and employed mainly outside the district or in slaughtering for private consumption, and not for re-sale.

(b) Sausage and Cooked Meat Premises. Twenty-one visits were made to the eight premises used for small sales in conjunction with butchers' shops. All were found to be maintained satisfactorily.

Work on improving conditions required by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 continued and thirty-six visits were made to bakehouses cooking meat products or premises where meat products were sold. One bakehouse was relined internally with impervious metal sheeting to permit of more effective cleaning.

No special lectures were given nor Clean Food Guild inaugurated.

(ii) Milk.

The only grades of milk permitted to be retailed in Portland, are Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised. There is no pasteurising plant on the Island - neither are there any local producers of Tuberculin Tested milk.

The main suppliers of milk are Messrs. Lovell's Creameries Ltd., and the Weymouth & District Co-operative Society who are licensed as Supplementary Dealers.

All raw milk produced on the Island is sent by the farmers for pasteurisation in Weymouth.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) or Milk (Pasteurised & Sterilised) Regulations, 1949, the following licences were issued by the Council:-

<u>Tuberculin Tested</u>		<u>Pasteurised</u>		
<u>Dealers or Supplementary</u>		<u>Dealers or</u>	<u>Supplementary</u>	
<u>Purveyors</u>	<u>Dealers</u>	<u>Purveyors</u>	<u>Dealers</u>	<u>Sterilised</u>
8	2	12	2	Nil

During the year the Public Health Laboratory at Dorchester examined thirteen samples of pasteurised milk, (four being T.T. Pasteurised), all of which were reported to be satisfactory.

(iii) Ice Cream. There are no manufacturers of ice cream within the Urban District, pre-packed supplies being obtained from manufacturer on the mainland. All premises used for the sale of

ice cream were inspected and the freezing apparatus checked and these conformed with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947. No loose ice cream was sold within the area.

(iv) Summary

(i)

Food premises within the area are as follows:-

Butchers Shops	8
Bakers Shops	6
Bakeries	6
Greengrocers	13
General Provision Shops	35
Confectionery Shops	21
Works Canteens	3
School Canteens	4
Hotels	5
Licensed Premises	33
Salvation Army Hostel	1
Cafes	9

(ii) The following were registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955:-

(a) For the sale of ice cream	39
(b) For the manufacture of sausages	8
(c) Cooked Fish & Chip Shops	6

(v) Byelaws & Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. With regard to the handling and wrapping of food, the Bye-laws made in 1950 under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 have been of a useful complement to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

(vi) Cafes & Food Premises. All Hotels and Cafes together with all other food premises such as Provision Shops, Greengrocers, Confectioners, Works and School Canteens were visited during the year and in appropriate cases attention was drawn to the need for staff facilities for washing hands, fly proofing, cleanliness of machines. Clothing lockers or compartments were also mentioned and much adaptation was carried out. A total of 221 visits were made.

As a result of these visits, fourteen informal notices were served in regard to the provision of extra sanitary accommodation, impervious internal surfaces, covered metal refuse bins, rat & mice proofed containers, etc., washing facilities, tidying of stores and redecoration. The standard of hygiene in these premises continues to improve and is generally satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY

All houses in the District have a main water supply pumped from the Friar Waddon borehole where the supply is chlorinated.

Forty-five samples of the public water supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and were reported on as follows:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Suspicious</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Council Offices	23	-	-	23
Friar Waddon	15	2	5	22
	<u>38</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>45</u>

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS 26th March, 1958

Appearance: Clear and colourless. No smell.

Reaction: pH 7.36

	<u>Parts per Million</u>
Free Carbon Dioxide	16
Ammonia (as N)	
Free	0.003
Albuminoid	0.012
Chlorine (as Chlorides)	24.5
equivalent to Sodium Chloride	40.5
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.)	0.07
Nitrite	Very faint trace
Nitrate	3.0
Total Solids	305
Loss on ignition	20
Hardness: Temporary	206
Permanent	28
Total	234

Mineral Analysis

Lead	Pb	Less than	0.1
Copper	Cu	Less than	0.1
Iron	Fe		0.05
Calcium	Ca		83
Magnesium	Mg		7
Sodium	Na		14
Carbonate	CO ₃		124
Sulphate	SO ₄		15

As nearly as can be calculated:

Calcium Carbonate	CaCO ₃	206
Magnesium Sulphate	MgSO ₄	19
Magnesium Chloride	MgCl ₂	13
Salt NaCl		25
Sodium Nitrate	NaNO ₃	22
Ignition Loss		20
		<u>305</u>

In forwarding their report, Messrs. Waterfall & O'Brien, Analytical Chemists said, "This is very similar to other samples analysed. The water is hard and is of excellent organic purity."

During the year a sample of the public water supply was submitted for analysis of its fluoride content. This was found to be 0.10 parts per million (method used - distillation from perchloric acid).

HOUSING ACTS 1936-1957

During 1956 the three under-mentioned properties had been the subject of Official Representations and in 1957 action was taken by the Council as indicated.

No. 37 Wakeham	-	Undertaking accepted.
No. 1 Clements Lane	-	Undertaking Accepted.
No. 77 Chiswell	-	Undertaking cancelled and Closing Order made.

Action taken re houses officially represented in previous year.

No. 163 High Street and No. 41 Straits - Specifications of works carried out and undertakings given by the owners cancelled by the Council.

Action taken under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

No. 149 Fortuneswell - Closing Order made on basement living room.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 269

Three licences to use individual caravans for a period not exceeding six months were issued during the year.

A licence was issued to Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Legg to use the paddock adjoining Pennsylvania Castle, as a site for twenty-five caravans.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47 NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No formal action was taken under these Acts but 33 visits were paid to aged or infirm persons, and help or guidance given as needed.

One elderly man living under most unsatisfactory conditions was persuaded to enter hospital, where he later died.

PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1953

It was not necessary for me to issue any notice on behalf of the Council under these regulations.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One shop was licensed under this Act.

The Local Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. has continued to act in an honorary capacity as Inspector under this Act. No complaints were received from him during the year. Five visits were paid by your Public Health Inspector and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

LETHAL CHAMBER FOR ANIMALS

The cabinets for the humane destruction of cats and dogs loaned to the Council by the R.S.P.C.A. were available at the Council's Wide Street Depot on Saturday mornings from 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. and Wednesday afternoons from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.

This service has been much appreciated and during the year 69 dogs or puppies and 107 cats or kittens were humanely destroyed. Electricity was used for dogs and chloroform for cats.

DEALERS IN OLD METALS

Three persons were registered as Dealers in Scrap Metal under the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907 and five visits were made to check books and premises. No Marine Stores Dealers were registered.

FACTORY ACTS, 1937 & 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector)

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Number of</u>		
		<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(i) Factories in which secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities...	27	33	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority.....	42	46	10	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	4	-	-
TOTAL	71	83	12	-

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>No. of cases in which defects were found</u>				<u>No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</u>
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred To H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector</u>	
Want of cleanliness.....	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding.....	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature.....	1	1	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation.....	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.....	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient.	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	3	3	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act.....	3	3	1	3	-
TOTAL	13	13	1	5	-

DRAINAGE AND GENERAL WORK, ETC.

There was no alteration in the day-to-day work of the Department.

All new drainage and repairs or alterations to existing drainage of all premises other than Government buildings were tested by water pressure or smoke machine in the presence of your Public Health Inspector, and a good standard of work was maintained by both Council employees and Contractors. Drains and private sewers in the area were cleared where required by the Council's Sanitary Labourer, who in addition to this work carried out all rodent destruction throughout the area, disinfections and disinfestations of buildings, disposal of unwanted cats and dogs, the spraying of the Council's Tip and other miscellaneous duties, e.g. sewer flushings etc.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Portland has approximately 2,600 houses and business premises and with a few exceptions these are sewered into four outfalls at Chiswell, Chene, Portland Bill and Sheat. Apart from a small area at Pennsylvania Castle, all the sewage from Tophill enters the sea by natural fall, but in the Underhill district automatic sewage pumps are employed.

The Chesil sewers were cleared out and extensive repairs carried out to the sewer outfall at Portland Bill which had been damaged by heavy seas.

FLOODING AT SOUTHWELL

There was further flooding in this area after heavy rain and minor works to relieve this were put in hand.

An Inspector from the Ministry of Housing & Local Government paid a further visit to the Island but authority to carry out major remedial measures has not yet been received.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year 56 visits were made by your Public Health Inspector in connection with rodent control.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food methods of destruction were used and their Divisional Rodent Inspector checked the work regularly. Twice during the year all the non-tidal and unflooded portions of the sewerage systems were test-baited, and poison-baited according to the Ministry Inspector's advice.

One man was employed part-time (20 hours per week) on rodent destruction work, and the rat population was kept at a low level.

Number of visits of part-time rodent operative (Inspections & Treatment)	750
Infestations reported and eradicated	83
Baits laid (including prebaiting)	450
Sewer manholes test-baited	88
Sewer manholes poison-baited	51

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council maintained a weekly collection of house refuse throughout the year and also removed trade refuse. This work was under the control of the Council's Surveyor. One 'Karrier' 10 cubic yard side-loading covered lorry was used for refuse collection and a driver and four assistants were employed on this vehicle.

It is estimated that 3,500 tons of house and trade refuse were disposed of during the year. The Tip at Wide Street was maintained free from rats, by being regularly baited. This latter work was also checked by the Divisional Rodent Inspector from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

LICENSED PREMISES

The improvement of licensed premises commenced after the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 continued, and twenty-five visits to check progress were made. This resulted in the provision of two further water closets for ladies, and two for gentlemen and to the provision of three wash-hand basins for ladies' toilets. All thirty-three licensed premises have sinks with hot water for glass washing. One notice to provide an extra water closet is outstanding, but drawings have been approved by the Council for this work.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS

Under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 sixteen houses let in lodgings were inspected, mostly in conjunction with Council house applications. One drainage improvement resulted from the visits.

Twelve routine inspections of furnished accommodations resulted in one informal notice for repairs.

UNSOUND FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED AND DISPOSED OF

<u>Food</u>	<u>No. of containers</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Tomatoes	5	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Margarine	2	1 lb.
Figs	3	128 lbs.
Peas	41	47 lbs.
Beans	3	3 lbs.
Christmas pudding	1	1 lb.
Oranges	2	2 lbs.
Lard	2	1 lb.
Pineapple	9	11 lbs.
Coconut	1	1 lb.
Flour	8	8 lbs.
Beetroot	1	1 lb.
Peaches	1	2 lbs.
Coffee	4	1 lb.
Apricots	4	4 lbs.
Jam	3	3 lbs.
Butter	14	9 lbs.
Meat	43	137 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Bacon	6	311 lbs.
Fish	2	1 lb.
Biscuits	2	1 lb.
Tea	6	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Sugar	5	14 lbs.

Condemned Food Condemned Food is collected by Council transport after voluntary surrender has been agreed to in writing and disposed of at the Council's Tip.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Sanitary Defects, Nuisances investigated..	..	..	94
Visits to verminous premises..	..	..	7
Premises disinfested by Local Authority ..	..	..	33
Premises disinfected by Local Authority ..	..	..	15
Investigating Infectious Diseases ..	..	..	6
Visits to houses owned by Local Authority ..	..	..	237
Visits to Aged and infirm persons ..	..	..	33
Housing Survey Inspections ..	..	..	88
Investigating overcrowding or unsatisfactory conditions ..	..	..	43
Structural Defects and disrepair found ..	..	..	45
Interviews with owners, agents etc. ..	..	..	90
Interviews with contractors ..	..	..	67
Revisits ..	..	..	101
Butchers' Shops and Meat Preparation Rooms ..	..	..	21
Bakehouses ..	..	..	12

Taxi inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Provision Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Fish Fryers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Cafe and Hotel Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Canteens (including 3 School Canteens)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Ice Cream premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Offices inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
School Conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
School's drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Pet Animals Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Shops for the purposes of Shops Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Milk Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Milk Samples for bacteriological examination	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Routine drinking water samples for bacteriological examination	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Waterworks visited re sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Inspections of factories and workplaces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	83
Petroleum Installations - Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Petroleum Installations - Tests	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Notices sent under Factory Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Factories re fire certificates	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Other matters in Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Visits re animals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Inspector's visits re rodents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
Visits to refuse tip	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Tip sprayed for flies etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Tip baited for rodents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Complaints re refuse collection, dustbin etc. investigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Visits to Caravan and camping sites	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Pig sties	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cess-pools & Septic Tanks inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Septic Tanks emptied	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Houses let in lodgings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Miscellaneous visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	98
Scrap Metal Dealers visited	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Drainage Inspections and tests:-									
Smoke	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Water	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	67
Visits re drains	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	121
Quarries inspected for accumulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Quarries' fences inspected for danger	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Drains or sewers cleared by Council men	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	118
Food disposal certificates issued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Magistrates Food Condemnation Certificates	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Visits re unsound foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Informal Visits under Rents Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Certificates of Disrepair recommended	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Letters to Owners	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Public Health Acts & Housing Acts:-									
Notices served - Informal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	62
Formal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Notices complied - Informal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58
Formal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Total number of inspections made	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,756

